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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (a) Yes. On 24th February 1955 the Assistant Collector, Malappuram, seized ten cart-loads of firewood which were being removed from the Unnamalai Coupe No. 4 in the unsurveyed Malavaram in Attapadi.

(b) The Assistant Collector returned the firewood seized by him to the owner as it had been cut under a permit issued by the Collector.

Extension of Madras Harbour

* 2615 Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to answer given to clause (a) of question No. 1581 on 23rd March 1955 whether the Madras Harbour is proposed to be extended up to the Iron Bridge near Fort St. George?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : As the question regarding the extension of the Madras Harbour, which is a major port, relates to a matter with respect to which the executive power of the State does not extend, it is not constitutionally proper to raise the question in the State Legislature. It is therefore not proper for the Government to answer the question, in the State Legislature.

Teachers serving as village post-masters

* 2616 Q.—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the number of elementary school teachers acting as village post-masters on 1st July 1954?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The number of teachers acting as village post-masters on 1st July 1954 is not available. The number as on 31st March 1954 was 1487.

High mortality rate of calves

* 2617 Q.—SRI V. MUTHU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the mortality rate of calves in the State is very high;

(b) whether the Government have examined the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps they propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) It is not correct to say that mortality rate of calves in the State as a whole is high, though it may be slightly above normal in some urban areas.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative. The high mortality of calves noticed in towns and urban areas, may be said to be more often due to starvation and neglect, on the part of the owners rather than by any natural causes or diseases. This neglect is again due to the fact, that the bulk of the milch cattle in the towns are in the

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hands of professional milkmen who consider it uneconomical to maintain a calf properly under the city conditions, where the cost of feeding calves is prohibitive while the immediate return from the milk sold is comparatively very high.

(c) The following steps have already been taken by Government in this regard :—

(1) a Calf Subsidy scheme in the key village areas has been put into operation to encourage proper rearing of calves;

(2) intensive propaganda on the proper care and management of calves by lectures, leaflets, etc.;

(3) calf rallies and awarding of prizes to well-nourished calves; and

(4) investigation, treatment and reseach on calf diseases at the various veterinary institutions.

There are no other proposals under consideration by Government. It may be mentioned that the Veterinary Disease Investigation Officer has taken up the survey of calf mortality in the different parts of the State. The Government will consider this report when it is received.

Mathur-Variyankaval road

* 2618 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation about the 15th February 1955 from the public for gravelling the Mathur-Variyankaval road and making it bus-worthy; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI : (*a*) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Teachers' Provident Fund

* 2619 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Teachers' Provident Fund contributions of Aided Elementary School Teachers of Malabar were deducted from their salaries with effect from 1st January 1954 by the department;

(b) whether the same has been credited to Teachers' Provident Fund Savings Bank Account; and

(*c*) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) & (*c*) There has been some delay in crediting the amounts in the Teachers' Savings Bank Accounts as the system of direct